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ABSTRACT

Algebra is one of the top priorities of mathematics instruction for the elementary and middle grades. This book is designed to help 6-8 teachers meet the challenge of making algebra an integral part of their mathematics instruction and realize both what to teach and how to teach central algebraic concepts. Classroom-tested lessons help teachers see how instruction in algebra not only builds on the instruction they are already providing in arithmetic, but also supports, enhances, and extends children's work in both number and geometry. Lessons cover a variety of algebraic topics including patterns and pattern rules, functions, variables, and coordinate graphs. Many of the activities use manipulatives to illustrate concepts and facilitate learning. To guide teachers, each chapter is organized into several sections. The overview gives a description of the lesson and its goals. The background describes the mathematics fundamental to the lesson and identifies appropriate prerequisite skills. Vocabulary used in the lesson, time needed to teach the lesson, and the materials required are also included. All lessons are illustrated with numerous examples of children's work to help teachers plan and prepare. (KHR)

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